



## Peru Research Guide

### ANCESTOR'S BIRTH LOCATION UNKNOWN

**FamilySearch Indexed Records:** Try searching in the indexed records for the name of your ancestor if they were born before 1930. Try a variety of searches with your ancestor's name, or with parent's names, or just by parent's surnames AND using the option to limit the locality by the country "Peru" and the name of the department, if known. If there are no results, you will have to find more information from home sources or by asking family members.

**Contact Family Members:** If you do not have even a minimal amount of information AND have no idea of where and when to look, you need to contact family members who might have that information. This could be older aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.

### ANCESTOR'S BIRTH LOCATION AND NAMES OF PARENTS, SPOUSE, OR CHILDREN ARE KNOWN

Civil Registration began registering births and marriages in 1886, and deaths in 1857 in most municipalities in Peru. However, some places did not begin to register information until 1889. Catholic Church records are excellent sources for accurate information on names, dates, and places of births, marriages, and deaths. Virtually every person who lived in Peru was recorded in a Catholic Church record, with the exception of the Indians of the eastern rain forests. Looking for your ancestor in both record types is best way to advance the pedigree.

**FamilySearch Indexed Records:** Try searching first in indexed records as described above.

**FamilySearch Browsable Images:** If there are no results from your previous search for your ancestor or any siblings, you will have to browse images for the locality. On the **Search** page, click the **South America** portion of the map then select **Peru**. Select a record collection from **Image-Only Historical Records** and browse the collection page-by-page for your ancestor.

**FamilySearch Catalog:** Not all records for Peru are online, be sure to check the catalog before giving up on finding records. Under **Search** on the home page select **Catalog**. Type **Peru** and click **Search**. A list of available records will appear. Your search can be localized by selecting **Places within Peru** at the top and then choosing the exact locality where your ancestor lived.

### RESEARCH STRATEGIES

**Who to Search For?** If you don't know the names of the parents, but you know the name of the spouse and/or the names of some of his children, begin with a marriage search (if they married in Peru and you know the place). Or begin with a search for the birth/baptism record for one of their children (if you have an approximate birthdate and place).

**FamilySearch Wiki:** Translation, handwriting help, and descriptions of specific record collections can be found on the FamilySearch Wiki. Under **Search** on the home page select Research Wiki. Type **Peru** into the search bar and press **Enter**. The information on this page will lead you to helpful topics such as **Languages** (under Peru Background) as well as beginning research suggestions.

**FamilySearch Community:** You can get immediate research and handwriting help from a community of researchers through the FamilySearch Communities. Go to <http://community.familysearch.org/> and click **Groups**. Search for **Latin American Genealogy Research** or **Investigación Genealógica** to find the group for Hispanic genealogical research. While the second group is in Spanish, the members will respond to posts written in English. On the group pages, you can post research questions and upload documents to get translation help.

## FINDING A LOCALITY

For help locating a place in Peru, try the following sources:

- Google
- Wikipedia (The Spanish version works the best)
- Mariano F. Paz Soldán, online link to 1877 *Diccionario Geográfico Estadístico Del Perú* <https://archive.org/stream/diccionariogeog01soldgoog#page/n8/mode/2up>
- *Directorio Nacional de Municipalidades Provinciales y Distritales* (Peru: National Directory of Provincial and District Municipalities) FHL INTL Book 985 E54p 1999.
- *Peru: Official Standard Names approved by the U.S. Board of Geographical Names*. (Washington, D.C.: Central Intelligence Agency, 1955), FHL INTL Book 985 E5p; film 1102987 item1).
- *Diccionario enciclopédico del Perú ilustrado*. (Illustrated Encyclopedic Dictionary of Peru). 3 vols. Lima: Editorial Mejia Baca, 1966. (FHL INTL Book 985 A5de; film 1162476 items 1–3.
- Try a keyword search in the FamilySearch Catalog for Peru Gazetteers

## ONLINE RESOURCES

**Biblioteca Nacional del Peru:** [www.bnp.gob.pe/](http://www.bnp.gob.pe/)

**SouthAmericaGenWeb:** [www.southamericagenweb.org](http://www.southamericagenweb.org)

**Peru: Genealogy Research:**

[www.en.geneanet.org/pays/research-genealogy-ancestry-Peru-PER](http://www.en.geneanet.org/pays/research-genealogy-ancestry-Peru-PER)

**Geni:** [www.geni.com/search?names=Peru](http://www.geni.com/search?names=Peru)

For other online resources please review the Wiki article **Hispanic Genealogy Resources Online**.